

Funding Supports Two New Deputies to Help Combat Drug and Border Violence

Washington, DC – On Thursday, Harry Teague announced that the Luna County Sheriff's Department has been awarded \$225,000 to enhance local law enforcement operations in their fight against violence in the border region. The funding, allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, aims to help law enforcement officers increase their capacity to prevent, combat, and investigate crime, especially drug-related crime in rural states and rural areas along the borders.

“As violence in the border region continues to escalate, it's important that our first responders – who are often the men and women of our local law enforcement – have the tools they need to keep New Mexican families safe. And as many local governments face tightening budgets, it's critical that we have enough officers on the streets to keep our communities safe,” said Harry Teague, Vice-Chair of the Congressional Border Caucus and strong advocate for increased border security resources. “This Recovery Act funding will go directly towards creating jobs and cracking down on violent border crime and strengthening our national security – our top priorities in southern New Mexico.”

The Luna County Sheriff's Department will use its grant funds to create two Field Deputy positions to combat criminal activity including drug and border violence. These positions will allow the Luna County Sheriff's Department to effectively plan, manage and utilize resources to reduce criminal activity along the Southern border of the United States.

As Vice Chair of the Congressional Border Caucus, Harry Teague has consistently called for a robust, comprehensive strategy to address the violence along the border. In addition to co-sponsoring several border security funding bills in an effort to expedite these critical resources to the border, he called on the President to [send the National Guard to the border](#) to address the growing national security threat there and led 50 of his colleagues in [requesting supplemental funding](#) to step up border security, including funding for National Guard on the border. Congressman Teague has also called on President Barack Obama to [convene a White House Summit](#) with the aim of building a policy to address the border violence crisis, ensure that the violence does not spill over into the United States, and help America get back to work building our border economies.

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